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**AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS**

1           1.       (Previously presented) An apparatus, comprising:

2           a network component that employs a) one or more call characteristics to make a  
3       determination to initiate a request to a switch component for one or more positions of  
4       one or more mobile stations and b) one or more call parameters to identify one or more  
5       cellular network cells associated with the one or more mobile stations, wherein at least  
6       one of the one or more call parameters employed to identify one of the one or more  
7       cellular network cells is a telephony number of at least one of the one or more mobile  
8       stations; and

9           wherein the network component receives, in response to the request, the one or  
10       more positions of the one or more mobile stations from a position component that  
11       determines the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations continuously;  
12       and

13          wherein the switch component assigns a channel to the at least one of the one or  
14       more mobile stations for a call upon a comparison of a calling party number with the at  
15       least one of the one or more call parameters.

1           2.       (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the network component  
2       performs a comparison of the one or more call characteristics with one or more  
3       thresholds to make the determination to initiate the request for the one or more  
4       positions of the one or more mobile stations.

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1           3.       (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the one or more  
2   call characteristics comprise a pilot signal strength characteristic, and wherein the one  
3   or more thresholds comprise a pilot signal strength threshold, and wherein the network  
4   component performs a comparison of the pilot signal strength characteristic with the  
5   pilot signal strength threshold; and

6           wherein the network component makes the determination to initiate the request  
7   for the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations based on a result of the  
8   comparison of the pilot signal strength characteristic with the pilot signal strength  
9   threshold.

1           4.       (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the network  
2   component employs the one or more call characteristics to create one or more call  
3   statistics, and wherein the one or more thresholds comprise one or more call  
4   characteristic thresholds and one or more call statistic thresholds; and

5           wherein the network component performs a comparison of the one or more call  
6   statistics with the one or more call statistic thresholds; and

7           wherein the network component employs a comparison of the one or more call  
8   characteristics with the one or more call characteristic thresholds and the comparison of  
9   the one or more call statistics with the one or more call statistic thresholds to make the  
10   determination to initiate the request.

1           5.       (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the network  
2   component comprises an interface, and wherein the network component receives the  
3   one or more thresholds from a service provider through employment of the interface.

1           6.     (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the network component  
2     employs the determination to initiate the request to promote an avoidance of congestion  
3     in one or more cellular network communication paths.

1           7.     (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the network  
2     component makes the determination to initiate the request upon an exceedance of the  
3     one or more call characteristics relative to one or more thresholds; and  
4           wherein upon the exceedance of the one or more call characteristics relative to  
5     the one or more thresholds, the network component and the position component  
6     cooperate to obtain the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations.

1           8.     (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein upon a termination of the  
2     exceedance of the one or more call characteristics relative to the one or more  
3     thresholds, the network component and the position component cooperate to  
4     discontinue attainment of the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations.

1           9.     (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the network  
2     component employs the one or more call characteristics to perform a selection of the  
3     one or more mobile stations from a plurality of mobile stations; and  
4           wherein the network component employs the selection to formulate the request  
5     for the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations from the plurality of  
6     mobile stations.

1           10. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more  
2 mobile stations are associated with the one or more cellular network cells; and  
3           wherein the network component employs the one or more call characteristics to  
4 perform a selection of the one or more cellular network cells from a plurality of cellular  
5 network cells; and  
6           wherein the network component employs the selection to formulate the request  
7 for the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations that are associated with  
8 the one or more cellular network cells.

1           11. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the network  
2 component employs the switch component to identify the one or more mobile stations  
3 that are associated with the one or more cellular network cells; and  
4           wherein the network component employs the switch component to determine the  
5 one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations that are associated with the  
6 one or more cellular network cells.

1           12. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the network  
2 component receives the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations in  
3 response to the request; and  
4           wherein the network component employs the one or more positions of the one or  
5 more mobile stations and the one or more call characteristics to develop a coverage  
6 map.

1           13. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

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2 the switch component that provides the one or more call characteristics to the  
3 network component;

4 wherein the network component employs the one or more call characteristics to  
5 make a determination to initiate a request to the switch component; and

6 wherein the switch component obtains the one or more positions of the one or  
7 more mobile stations based on the request to the switch component.

1 14. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the network  
2 component provides to the switch component the one or more call parameters; and

3 wherein the switch component employs the one or more call parameters to  
4 perform an identification of the one or more mobile stations from a plurality of mobile  
5 stations; and

6 wherein the switch component employs the identification of the one or more  
7 mobile stations from the plurality of mobile stations to obtain the one or more positions  
8 of the one or more mobile stations.

1 15. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the one or  
2 more mobile stations are associated with one or more calls; and

3 wherein the switch component employs the one or more call parameters to  
4 perform an identification of the one or more calls from a plurality of calls; and

5 wherein the switch component employs the identification of the one or more calls  
6 from the plurality of calls to obtain the one or more positions of the one or more mobile  
7 stations that are associated with the one or more calls.

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1           16. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the network  
2 component and the switch component receive the one or more positions of the one or  
3 more mobile stations from the position component; and

4           wherein the network component and the switch component cooperate to develop  
5 a coverage map through employment of the one or more positions of the one or more  
6 mobile stations.

1           17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the position component  
2 employs one or more of an Enhanced Forward Link Trilateration algorithm and an IS-  
3 801 solution using an Assisted Global Positioning System (AGPS), Advanced Forward  
4 Link Trilateration (AFLT) or combined AGPS/AFLT algorithm to determine the one or  
5 more positions of the one or more mobile stations.

1           18. (Previously presented) A method, comprising the steps of:  
2           initiating a request to a switch component for one or more positions of one or  
3 more mobile stations through employment of a) one or more call characteristics and b)  
4 one or more call parameters to identify one or more cellular network cells associated  
5 with the one or more mobile stations, wherein at least one of the one or more call  
6 parameters employed to identify one of the one or more cellular network cells is a  
7 telephony number of at least one of the one or more mobile stations;

8           receiving, in response to the request, the one or more positions of the one or  
9 more mobile stations; and

10          determining the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations  
11 continuously;

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12 wherein the switch component assigns a channel to the at least one of the one or  
13 more mobile stations for a call upon a comparison of a calling party number with the at  
14 least one of the one or more call parameters.

1 19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of initiating the  
2 request for the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations through  
3 employment of the one or more call characteristics comprises the steps of:

4 performing a comparison of the one or more call characteristics with one or more  
5 thresholds; and

6 initiating the request for the one or more positions of the one or more mobile  
7 stations based on the comparison.

1 20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the step of  
2 initiating the request for the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations  
3 based on the comparison comprises the steps of:

4 determining the one or more call parameters associated with the one or more  
5 thresholds;

6 identifying the one or more mobile stations from a plurality of mobile stations  
7 through employment of the one or more call parameters; and

8 initiating the request for the one or more positions of the one or more mobile  
9 stations through employment of the one or more call parameters.

1 21. (Canceled)

1           22. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the position  
2 component is pre-provisioned with one or more intervals of time to determine the one or  
3 more positions of the one or more mobile stations.

1           23. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the thresholds  
2 provide a measure of a quality level of service provided to the one or more mobile  
3 stations.

1           24. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the network  
2 component employs the one or more call parameters to identify i) the one or more  
3 cellular network cells associated with the one or more mobile stations or ii) the one or  
4 more mobile stations.

1           25. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the network component limits a  
2 number of requests for the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations  
3 based on a comparison of the one or more call characteristics with one or more  
4 thresholds.

1           26. (New) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein one of the one or more call  
2 statistics is a number of dropped calls within an hour.

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